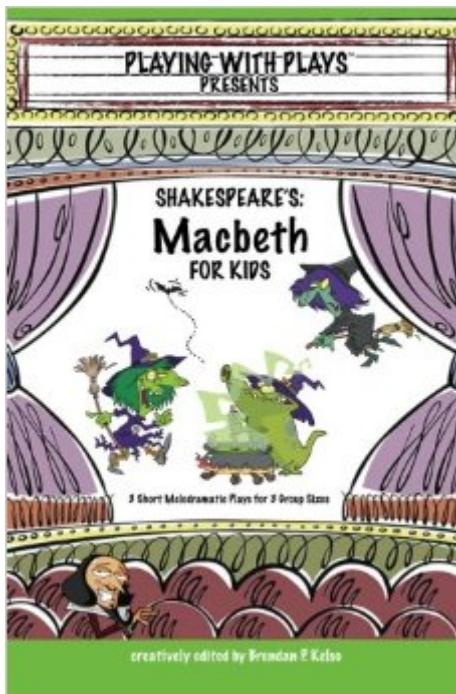


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# Shakespeare's Macbeth For Kids: 3 Short Melodramatic Plays For 3 Group Sizes (Playing With Plays)



## **Synopsis**

Macbeth like you have never read it before; quick, fun, and easy to understand. Designed for 6-17+ actors, kids of all ages, or anyone who wants to enjoy and loosely understand Shakespeare's play. What you will get: Fun! 3 melodramatic modifications for group sizes: 6-9 9-12 12-17 Actual lines from Shakespeare's play mixed in Creatively funny interpretations of the remaining script A delightfully funny rendition that is easy for ADULTS to understand too! A kid who loves Shakespeare! This mini-melodramatic masterpiece is sure to be a doorway for your child to love all the classics. Shakespeare is difficult enough in class or watching on stage, let alone trying to teach the stories to children, but as the author's mantra states in the book, "there is no better way to learn than to have fun!" Kids who have read this have also eventually purchased the entire Shakespeare works, and have completed 'hero' reports on Shakespeare at school. Guaranteed to have you coming back for more!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

To play or not to play? That is the question...and the answer, of course, is PLAY!!! Especially, when you're playing around with one of Brendan Kelso's plays. My fifth graders performed Macbeth this past week, and it was a tremendous hit. From Lady Macbeth snatching the crown away from Macbeth (she's got quite a power struggle going on), wandering around the stage wearing red gloves, and dying dramatically offstage to witches reciting "Something wicked this way comes", there's enough Shakespeare and humor going around for everyone. Our theatrical production was

the culminating project for a nine weeks unit on Shakespeare for my fifth grade gifted learners. The parents were thrilled that their children were studying Shakespeare, quoting Shakespeare, and asking for Shakespeare at home. I truly feel that my students will look forward to learning more about Shakespeare as they progress in school. My students also performed A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet. The plays are adapted for group size, include actual lines from Shakespeare, and make kids enjoy performing great works. They were very easy to stage - its amazing what you can do with a few foam swords, a Burger King costume, and some plaid cloth from the dollar table at Wal-Mart. His books are a bargain in cost, and a luxury in value to classroom instruction. Now, if he would just get Hamlet and a few other plays written for us to use next year, all would be well!

The laughter! The death scenes! My kids are addicted to acting out Brendan Kelso's plays. For Macbeth, they did a puppet show. Sometimes they get their cousins or friends to put on a play, or even a scene. The death scenes are the best - fun and memorable! When they're laughing, they're learning. Great, great work Mr. Kelso. More books like this, please.

I've been wanting to introduce my students to Shakespeare many times over the years but never really found the best mix of length, actual Shakespearean lines, and understandable English. Brendan Kelso's attempt was a BIG HIT with my 5th graders! They LOVED learning about Shakespeare with this non-threatening text and after performing it, and watching two other plays by other groups, I asked them if they enjoyed doing these plays--and the answer was a RESOUNDING YES! Also, several shouted, "Can we do another one?!" That's the best recommendation I can give. And yes, we will be doing some more!

My students are 4th and 5th graders. We had such a wonderful time preparing this play to perform. We added some ghosts and a LOT of country music to make it our own hilarious comedy version of Macbeth! I have used this play with small groups as an introduction to reading plays and have used it with a BIG group but creating a chorus of witches, a gang of murders and "death" to deal with all the bodies! I cannot recommend this play highly enough for this age group!

I ran a two-week Shakespeare camp last summer and directed kids in Brendan's version of Macbeth. Perfect for kids in elementary through middle school. They get to know the plot, characters and some of the Big Lines from the play. And I love the flexibility of cast size since some

kids didn't register until the third day of camp. I was able to fit them in easily. I highly recommend any of the Brendan Kelso plays.

I recently received my copy of Brendan Kelso's Shakespeare's Macbeth for Kids, and I can't wait to use it in my classroom (6th/7th language arts). Kelso's retelling is engaging and accessible. Shakespeare was all about entertainment--the drama, the humor, the plot twists. Shakespeare's plays were written in the vernacular of the time--his original audience didn't have to struggle to understand. But Shakespeare can be intimidating to a modern-day 6th grader! What I love about Kelso's rendition is that it removes the struggle and leaves the joy and genius of Shakespeare's work. Kelso mixes the modern (MacDuff to Macbeth: Stinks to be you!) with the original lines that are so much a part of our cultural literacy (Double, double, toil and trouble . . .). The result is a play that is entertaining and accessible to children while retaining the most memorable lines of the original work. Kelso also includes a very simple 6 - 8 day plan for incorporating the play into the classroom. I will be using this version of Macbeth in the classroom as the perfect follow-up to our planned reading of The Wednesday Wars.

We have been teaching Shakespeare in our 4/5 Multi-age class for the past 10 years. This last year we used three of plays by Kelso and it changed the way we taught Shakespeare. The kids were instantly engaged in the stories. The simplicity of the plots allowed the kids to get the point of the play without being bogged down with the language. The plays are funny and engaging for even a 4th or 5th grader. Once they had the basics of the story we were able to go a little deeper into the plays. We are definitely using the books as a part of our Shakespeare unit from now on. Awesome tool for the classroom.

After my 5th graders used this book to put on a show of Macbeth to our entire school, and parents, teachers, and students from 2-8 grade were able to laugh and understand the themes of this play...I am definitely going to buy the entire series! Thank you so much for making such a wonderful resource while keeping the Shakespeare essence. My 5th graders were easily able to understand the themes and characters while also enjoying the appropriate humor!

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